## **Appendix 3- Systematic Review Classification Criteria**

- 1. Check the abstract for the criteria listed below.
- 2. If it is not clear from the abstract if the paper is a systematic review based on criteria, then the full text must be retrieved for evaluation.
- 3. If it is still not clear, mark with "?" and discuss with 2nd reviewer.
- 4. If not clear with either reviewer, mark with the original publication type assigned.

## Criteria:

- Specific clinical question
- Documentation of methods to identify literature
  - If author states it was "comprehensively" or "systematically" done then that fulfills this criteria
  - If using electronic databases ( must use more than one database)
  - If using other resource types, must demonstrate use of multiple sources for identifying studies
- Inclusion and/or exclusion criteria noted
- Synthesis noted
  - Refer to the following references as needed for further details/description on synthesis: Guyatt G, Rennie D, Meade MO, Cook DJ. Users' guides to the medical literature: a manual for evidence-based clinical practice. 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical 2008. Page 525. Table 19.1 or Cook DJ, Mulrow CD, Haynes RB. Systematic reviews: synthesis of best evidence for clinical decisions. Ann Intern Med 1997 Mar 1;126(5):376-380.